

## ACS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES

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## CONTACT US!

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U.S. Embassy Seoul  
188 Sejong-daero, Jongno-gu  
Seoul 110-710, Korea

- or -

American Citizen Services  
U.S. Embassy, Seoul  
Unit #15550  
APO AP 96205-5550

Tel: 02-397-4040 (Passport)  
Tel: 02-397-4114 (Other Services)  
DSN: 721-4114

English: [www.asktheconsul.org/](http://www.asktheconsul.org/)  
Korean: <http://korean.seoul.usembassy.gov>  
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## GREETINGS FROM THE ACS CHIEF

As I mentioned last month, the 2012 World Expo will take place in the Korean coastal city of Yeosu, South Jeolla Province, beginning on May 12. A total of 106 countries and 109 international organizations are participating in Yeosu Expo 2012 with pavilions or exhibitions. The U.S. will have a pavilion that's described in item 9 below. If you want to attend the Yeosu Expo but haven't yet made arrangements, hotel rooms in or near Yeosu are reportedly scarce. As the Korea Times article at the following link describes, you may have to make reservations in nearby cities like Busan or Gwangju if you want to attend the Expo: [http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2012/03/117\\_106775.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2012/03/117_106775.html)



Please don't forget to check out our American Citizen Services blog when you have a chance using the following link: <http://usembassyseoulconsular.wordpress.com/>. While you're at it visit our Facebook site called "Americans in Korea" ([www.facebook.com/americansinkorea](http://www.facebook.com/americansinkorea)). We post items on both sites and quickly respond to your posted queries. We realize that many of you communicate largely through social media, and we want to make sure that you can easily communicate with us.

Note that in May we're making our second outreach trip to the City of Taegu (or Daegu). We'll be hosted at U.S. Army Garrison Henry (or Camp Henry) both our days in Taegu, but this doesn't mean you can't come for a service if you're not associated with the U.S. military. Please see item 3 below for information on making an appointment while we're in Taegu.

The summer is almost upon us, so please take a few moments to look at your passport and those of your family members to make sure you don't need to renew it or add pages to it.

Enjoy the lovely spring weather!

Robert (Buck) Waldrop  
ACS Chief

**HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

The Embassy will be closed on the following day:

May 28: (Monday) Memorial Day Observed

The ACS Unit will be closed for routine services, including passport processing, on May 28. Please plan ahead, and enjoy the holidays! Please be advised that the days just before and after a holiday are usually busier in the American Citizen Services Unit of the Embassy with all appointments taken. Do not be surprised if there is a longer wait for consular services on those days.

A complete list of all of our holiday closings for 2012 is available on-line at [http://seoul.usembassy.gov/p\\_holidays.html](http://seoul.usembassy.gov/p_holidays.html)

**CONSULAR SERVICES IN TAEGU, MAY 21-22, 2012**

The ACS Unit will be providing services at U.S. Army Garrison Henry (or Camp Henry) in the city of Taegu on Monday, May 21 and Tuesday, May 22.

During these visits, U.S. citizens can apply for U.S. passports, additional visa pages in their current passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, and Social Security cards. A consular officer will also offer notarial services and provide information regarding voting, federal benefits, and registration with the Embassy. The consular staff is also available to assist with emergencies involving U.S. citizens. Any questions about requirements should be directed by email to [seoul\\_acs@state.gov](mailto:seoul_acs@state.gov).

Please note that an appointment will be required for services in Taegu. Call the U.S. Embassy to schedule an appointment at 02-397-4114. Please specify that you would like to make an appointment for consular services in Taegu and which date you would prefer (it can be either of the days listed below). Be sure to call by noon on the Friday prior to the visit. For the May outreach, please make your appointment by Friday, May 18th at noon.

## **ALL APPOINTMENT SYSTEM**

The ACS Unit began requiring appointments for all non-emergency, routine services on June 15, 2011. This is also a worldwide policy for all U.S. embassies and consulates. Routine services include passport and additional pages applications, requests for Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, Social Security card and benefit applications, and notarial services.

Requiring appointments for all our non-emergency, routine services means that we'll be able to serve everyone more quickly and efficiently -- it will lessen considerably the long lines and busy waiting room that we often had during non-appointment sessions. Of course, we'll always take care of U.S. citizens with emergencies whether they have an appointment or not. Please note that notarial services are not considered emergency appointments.

**QUESTION OF THE MONTH:** Q: I want to renew my child's passport. Do both parents have to come in person to the Embassy with our child?

A: All renewal applicants age 15 and younger must appear in person with both parents at the Embassy to renew their passports. The application must be signed before a U.S. consular officer.

U.S. regulations require the consent of both parents/legal guardians for the issuance of a U.S. passport to a minor child. If only one parent submits the application for a minor child, the absent parent is required to complete a notarized Parental Statement of Consent Form DS-3053 to legally consent to the issuance of the new passport. All sections of the parental consent form must be completely filled out including the notary office information and the type of ID used for the notary process. The parent submitting the application materials to the U.S. Embassy must bring the notarized consent form along with a copy of the absent parent's ID used during the notary.

Please find additional information on our website [here](#).

## **MAY IS INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION (IPCA) AWARENESS MONTH**

Parental child abduction is a federal crime. It is also a tragedy that jeopardizes children and has substantial long-term consequences for the “left-behind” parent, the child, the family, and society. Children who are abducted by their parents are often suddenly isolated from their extended families, friends, and classmates. They are at risk of serious emotional and psychological problems. Similarly, left-behind parents experience a wide range of emotions including betrayal, loss, anger, and depression. In international parental child abduction cases, they often face unfamiliar legal, cultural, and linguistic barriers that compound these emotions.

Learn more about preventing international parental child abduction [here](#). In this section of the Department of State Website, learn about the measures you can take to prevent your

## **CAUTION IN ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS**

Itaewon and Shinchon are well known entertainment districts in Seoul that are also considered a higher-risk area for crime. Please use caution in all entertainment and nightlife districts throughout Korea.

Recently a small number of incidents involving U.S. citizens in these areas have included physical and sexual assaults, theft of purses, wallets, and drugs allegedly slipped into drinks.

## **VOTING**

For enquiries about voting or registering to vote online, please visit <http://www.fvap.gov/>. Stay tuned for additional details about voting in our upcoming newsletters.

## USA PAVILION AT YEOSU EXPO 2012

Please visit the following website of the USA Pavilion 2012, the organization charged with designing, building and operating the USA Pavilion <http://www.pavilion2012.org/> for this summer's World Expo in Yeosu, South Korea.

Find a useful Embassy Fact Sheet for the Expo at this link:

[http://seoul.usembassy.gov/p\\_rok\\_expo\\_042512.html](http://seoul.usembassy.gov/p_rok_expo_042512.html)

The USA Pavilion unifying themes of Diversity, Wonder and Solutions will tie into the overall Expo theme of "The Living Ocean and Coast" and will explore the vital connection between the health and well-being of cultures and communities and the future of one of our most important resources: the ocean. Through a host of exciting technologies and immersive storytelling, the 13,312-square foot USA Pavilion will highlight the diverse and dynamic nature of America's ocean and coastal environments as well as the colorful mosaic of American life. The USA Pavilion will include the following design and programming features:

A main attraction of stunning images, music and film will be projected in dazzling clarity across a 70-foot wide screen. Created around the concept of "This is My Ocean," individual voices and stories will unfold during the presentation to convey the diverse beauty of the American coastline and the many personal types of connections Americans enjoy with the vast ocean.

A large screen composed entirely of water will amaze guests when they enter the USA Pavilion.

40 American student "ambassadors" from universities and colleges around the United States will serve as guides throughout the USA Pavilion experience.

## TRAVEL WARNINGS

The U.S. Department of State has recently issued travel warnings or travel alerts for the following countries and regions. If you are traveling to any of these regions in the near future, please consult [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) for more information.

### **Travel Warnings:**

[Iran](#) 04/27/2012  
[Cote d'Ivoire](#) 04/23/2012  
[Burundi](#) 04/18/2012  
[Eritrea](#) 04/18/2012  
[Mali](#) 04/09/2012  
[Niger](#) 04/06/2012  
[Kenya](#) 04/04/2012  
[Chad](#) 03/29/2012  
[Yemen](#) 03/27/2012  
[Israel, the West Bank and Gaza](#) 03/19/2012  
[Syria](#) 03/06/2012  
[Nigeria](#) 02/29/2012  
[Colombia](#) 02/21/2012  
[Mexico](#) 02/08/2012  
[Pakistan](#) 02/02/2012  
[Iraq](#) 01/19/2012  
[Congo, Democratic Republic of the](#) 01/12/2012  
[Sudan](#) 01/11/2012  
[Philippines](#) 01/05/2012  
[Central African Republic](#) 01/04/2012  
[Republic of South Sudan](#) 12/22/2011  
[Afghanistan](#) 12/01/2011  
[Guinea](#) 11/04/2011  
[Korea, Democratic People's Republic of](#) 11/03/2011  
[Lebanon](#) 10/12/2011

[Mauritania](#) 10/12/2011

[Libya](#) 09/22/2011

[Algeria](#) 09/19/2011

[Somalia](#) 08/19/2011

[Haiti](#) 08/08/2011

[Saudi Arabia](#) 08/05/2011

### **Travel Alerts:**

[Bahrain](#) 04/25/2012

[Tunisia](#) 04/17/2012

[Guinea-](#)

[Bissau](#) 04/13/2012

[Egypt](#) 03/29/2012

[South Pacific Cyclone](#)

[Season](#) 12/12/2011

### **Worldwide Caution January 31, 2011**

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/pa/pa\\_4787.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_4787.html)

**For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site:**

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_1764.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html)

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/americansinkorea](http://www.facebook.com/americansinkorea)

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